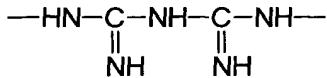


Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

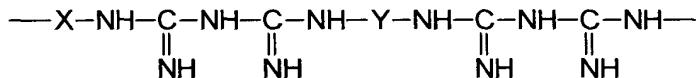
1. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymeric biguanide, polymer, characterised in that it carries said polymeric biguanide carrying a covalently bound chromophoric marker.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 wherein said chromophoric marker comprises a chromophoric group which has a major absorption and/or emission band in the range of from 275 to 1500 nm.
4. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 wherein the chromophoric group is a fluorescent group.
5. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 wherein the chromophoric marker is covalently bound to the antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide as a pendant group or a terminal group on the polymer chain, or as an in-chain group in the polymer chain.
6. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 wherein the chromophoric marker is present as a terminal or pendant group on the polymer chain ~~and the antimicrobial polymer to which the chromophoric marker is bound is an antimicrobial poly(quaternary ammonium) compound, a polymeric guanide or a polymeric biguanide.~~
7. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 6 wherein the antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide to which the chromophoric

marker is bound is a polymeric biguanide which contains at least one biguanide unit of Formula (3):



Formula 3

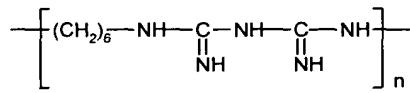
8. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 7 wherein the polymeric biguanide is a linear polymeric biguanide which has a recurring polymeric unit represented by Formula (4):



Formula (4)

wherein X and Y may be the same or different and represent bridging groups in which, together, the total number of carbon atoms directly interposed between the pairs of nitrogen atoms linked by X and Y is not less than 9 and not greater than 17.

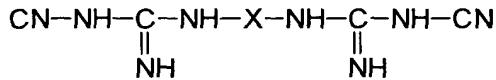
9. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 8 wherein the polymeric biguanide is a mixture of poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) polymer chains in which the individual polymer chains, excluding the terminal groups, are represented by Formula (5) and salts thereof:



Formula (5)

wherein the value of n is from 4 to 40.

10. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 obtainable by co-polymerising a chromophoric marker, a bisdicyandiamide having the formula:

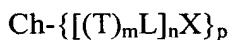


and a diamine $H_2N-Y-NH_2$, wherein X and Y are as defined in claim 8 may be the same or different and represent bridging groups in which, together, the total number of carbon atoms directly interposed between the pairs of nitrogen atoms linked by X and Y is not less than 9 and not greater than 17.

11. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 10 obtainable by co-polymerising hexamethylenediamine, hexamethylene-1,6-bis dicyandiamide and a chromophoric marker.

12. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 wherein the covalent bond between the chromophoric marker and the polymer the polymeric biguanide is formed by means of one or more reactive functional group on the chromophoric marker which is capable of forming a covalent bond with the polymer polymeric biguanide and/or monomer precursors used to make the polymer polymeric biguanide.

13. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 12 wherein the chromophoric marker carrying the reactive functional group(s) is of the Formula (1):

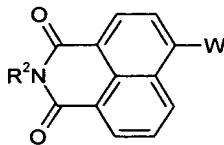


Formula (1)

wherein:

Ch	is a chromophoric group;
L	is a divalent aliphatic linking group;
X	is a reactive functional group;
T	is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NR^1-$, $-NR^1C(O)NR^1-$, $-NR^1C(S)NR^1-$, $-NR^1C(O)-$, $-OC(O)$, $=N-$ or $-SO_2NR^1-$;
R^1	is H, optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl;
m and n	independently are 0 or 1; and
p	is 1 or 2.

14. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 13 wherein the chromophoric marker carrying the reactive functional group(s) is of the Formula (2):



Formula (2)

wherein:

W is -NR³R⁴, -OR⁵ or halogen;

R², R³ and R⁵ are each, independently, alkyl optionally substituted by a reactive functional group;

R⁴ is H or alkyl optionally substituted by a reactive functional group;

provided that at least one of R² R³ R⁴ or R⁵ is substituted by a reactive functional group.

15. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 14 wherein the chromophoric marker carrying the reactive functional group(s) is N-(6-aminohexyl)-4-(6-aminohexylamino)-1,8-naphthalimide, N-(6-aminohexyl)-4-methoxy-1,8-naphthalimide, N-(6-aminohexyl)-4-bromo-1,8-naphthalimide or N-hexyl-4-(6-aminohexyl)-1,8-naphthalimide.

16. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 10 obtainable by co-polymerising hexamethylenediamine, hexamethylene-1,6-bis dicyandiamide and 4-bromo-1,8-naphthalic anhydride.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) A composition comprising antimicrobial polymers at least one of which is an antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1.

19. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a carrier and an antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 ~~or a composition according to claim 18.~~

20. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting microbiological growth on, or in, a medium which comprises treating the medium with an antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 ~~or a composition according to claim 18.~~

21. (Currently amended) A method for detecting an antimicrobial ~~polymer~~ polymeric biguanide according to claim 1 on or in a medium comprising ~~the steps:~~

- (a) subjecting a sample of the medium containing ~~an~~ said antimicrobial polymer polymeric biguanide to a detection means whereby the presence of the chromophoric marker in the antimicrobial polymer generates a detection signal; and optionally
- (b) calculating the concentration of the antimicrobial ~~polymer~~ polymeric biguanide from the detection signal generated in step (a).

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the detection means comprises fluorescence spectrometry, Raman spectrometry or surface enhanced resonance Raman spectrometry.

23. (Currently amended) A method for maintaining the concentration of an antimicrobial ~~polymer according to claim 1~~ polymeric biguanide carrying a covalently bound chromophoric marker in a medium at or above a target concentration comprising ~~the steps:~~

- (a) measuring the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer in the medium using the method according to claim 21;
- (b) comparing the measured concentration with the target concentration; and
- (c) adding a sufficient quantity of further antimicrobial ~~polymer~~ polymeric biguanide to the medium to maintain the concentration of the antimicrobial ~~polymer~~ polymeric biguanide in the medium at or above the target concentration.

24. (New) A composition comprising a carrier and a composition according to claim 18.

25. (New) A method for inhibiting microbiological growth, on, or in, a medium which comprises treating the medium with a composition according to claim 18.